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RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO SET PRIORITIES FOR EXPENDITURES FROM THE CLEAN WATER AND NATURAL LANDS FUND.

WHEREAS, Hawaii is blessed with natural resources and environmental beauty that are utilized and appreciated by residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, certain lands on Oahu, still undeveloped and important environmental and aesthetic assets, are vulnerable to ongoing development, commercial interests, and urban sprawl; and

WHEREAS, the voters of Oahu recognized the threat to these valuable Oahu lands and approved a charter amendment in 2006 that sets aside a portion of real property tax revenues to purchase real estate expressly for land conservation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to this charter amendment, the city council passed Bill 9 (2007), CD2 (signed into law as Ordinance 07-18), establishing the Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund ("fund"); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the fund is to provide for the purchase of or to otherwise acquire real estate or any interest therein for land conservation in the city for the following purposes:

- Protection of watershed lands to preserve water quality and water supply;
- Preservation of forests, beaches, coastal areas and agricultural lands;
- Public outdoor recreation and education, including access to beaches and mountains;
- Preservation of historic or culturally important land areas and sites;
- Protection of significant habitats or ecosystems, including buffer zones;
- Conservation of land in order to reduce erosion, floods, landslides, and runoff; and
- Acquisition of public access to public land and open space;

and



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WHEREAS, Ordinance 07-18 provides that: "All expenditures from this fund shall be made consistent with the priorities established by a commission created by council resolution...."; and

WHEREAS, the council finds that the timely establishment of a commission to advise the council is necessary for the protection and conservation of these lands on Oahu; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that there is established a Clean Water and Natural Lands Commission to set the priorities for expenditures from the Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission be comprised of nine members, and that within 21 days of adoption of this resolution, each councilmember shall designate one person to serve as a member of the Commission; provided that if a councilmember fails to appoint anyone within 21 days of adoption of this resolution, the council chair shall designate a Commission member on the councilmember's behalf; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duties of the Commission shall include, but not be limited to:

- Developing priorities applicable to expenditures from the fund for land conservation; and
- Formulating recommendations on applying these priorities to the proposed and approved expenditures from the Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund contained in the executive operating and capital budgets;

and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Commission report its findings and recommendations in writing to the council no later than one year from the date of adoption of this Resolution.

	MIRODUCED BY: Mirodu
DATE OF INTRODUCTION:	
NOV 0 7 2007	Councilmembers